

M-24, 196

FEB 23 1967

Poage Contends CIA Aid A Good Form of Control

FOIAb3b

Cong. W. R. (Bob) Poage in his weekly newsletter, discusses the reports of Central Intelligence Agency subsidizing of student groups.

Poage also writes of House Agriculture Committee business. He is chairman of that committee.

His letter follows:

"This week the Washington papers have all been 'horrified' over the so-called revelation of the efforts of the Central Intelligence Agency to channel student support in American institutions away from the Communist and revolutionary viewpoint. Frankly, I haven't been able to understand why all the 'shouting.'

"We all know that every ideology attempts to control the thinking of every organized group, and we all know the Communists have been especially active in seeking to secure the cooperation and support of student groups. It seems to me that we should be much more concerned if our own government had stepped aside and turned this field over to the subversive groups who are constantly vying for student acceptance.

"In the final analysis, just what is wrong with trying to encourage organized groups to

support their own government and the American way of life?

"Although there is little activity on the floor (there never is at this stage of the session), our committee meets each day and is attempting to handle the business which is properly referred to us.

"This week we have favorably reported 11 upstream or flood prevention projects. We have held up for further consideration five other such projects.

"I think the review which is accorded each of these projects by our committee has had a great deal to do with keeping this program a successful one, but even so, there is no way whereby any committee or any administrative agency can prevent some degree of private hardship when it becomes necessary to take property for public purposes.

"We are constantly urged to have the federal government buy the easements and rights-of-way needed for these projects, but our committee has felt that it was much better to leave the responsibility for this sort of thing with the local people rather than to have an agency at Washington empowered with authority to take individual farms.

"Our mail has greatly increased since I assumed the committee chairmanship. While committee mail is supposed to go to the committee, much of it is delivered to our congressional office. Much of it is from other states. Some of it is crank mail—often unsigned.

"I have no desire to answer a letter to which the writer would not affix his signature, but many people write us in good faith without putting their address on the letter. I am sure that most of these expect us to get the address from the envelope.

"I would like to acknowledge these letters but we simply cannot always keep the envelope with the letter and in many instances we are unable to reply for lack of an address. So, please, put your address on the sufficient."

CPYRGHT